

Turf Word Search

10 Plants that
Changed Minnesota



S G P L H F S P N G E M W H N
A C L I X P O S O F P O D N I
N H Y C T A O W I U O C G D T
Y O B I C B C T T D R T A Q R
L F I E W P G U A E U U O E O
U V A S F L W Q R S E X U E G
I E M V O G G T T N S C B N E
V S U D I R Z N L T S I O B N
K U Q W Y K E J I E E B U P Y
Y T I L A U Q L F Z R J K M J
O E P M O K H E I A A N G D V
W O K S I E N Y C O I R Z W E
Z J C N Y I V X W B S F G T K
I T D P F P H O S P H O R U S
W A T E R A D Z L R Y N Z Q J

Directions: Find each word listed below! Then form teams of two or more students and come up with your own definition of each word. The team with the most correct definitions wins!

CARBON- One of the many environmental benefits of turf is it sequesters (removes and stores) carbon from the atmosphere.

SOIL EROSION-Turf protects soil against water and wind erosion with its extensive root system.

EUROPE- Did you know Kentucky bluegrass is not from Kentucky? Grass was introduced from Europe in the mid to late 1800s. Originally brought over by European settlers for their livestock to graze on.

FILTRATION-Another environmental benefit of turf is it can be designed as a filtration/catcher for polluted run-off water (oil, grease and fuels are a good example of pollutants). How might it be able to do this?

FINE FESCUE- Is a type of low-input turf. Low-input means it requires less fertilizers, pesticides, insecticides, herbicides, water, mowing, etc....and still looks well maintained!

GRAZING-Animals use turf to graze. Which grazing

animals do you know?

NITROGEN-One of the three primary nutrients turf needs to grow! Clover naturally provides the soil and turf with nitrogen.

PHOSPHORUS-Another one of the three primary nutrients turf needs! Did you know that Phosphorus in fertilizers is banned in Minnesota? This is because too much phosphorus can be an issue, especially in the land of 10,000 lakes! Excess phosphorus that is not absorbed and used by the turf becomes caught up in water run off and causes issues with our drinking water and lakes. What is eutrophication and why is it an issue?

POACEAE-This is the botanical name of the family turf grass is part of.

POTASSIUM-Another one of the three primary nutrients turf needs to grow!

QUALITY-High quality turf is sought over by almost all Americans. The key is high quality but low input! What is one type of turf that's low input? [HINT: You should have already found it in the word search!]

WATER- Turf needs water to survive just like we do! But improper water use on turf is wasteful (and water is a precious resource!) so remember: the general rule of thumb

for a lawn in Minnesota is 3/4 to one inch per week during the growing season.

KEY

+	+	+	+	+	+	+	P	N	+	E	+	+	+	N
+	+	+	+	+	P	O	+	O	+	P	+	+	+	I
N	+	+	+	+	A	O	+	I	+	O	+	+	+	T
+	O	+	+	C	+	+	T	T	+	R	+	+	+	R
+	+	I	E	+	+	+	+	A	+	U	+	+	E	O
+	+	A	S	+	+	+	+	R	S	E	+	U	+	G
+	E	+	+	O	+	G	+	T	+	S	C	+	N	E
+	+	+	+	+	R	+	N	L	+	S	I	O	+	N
+	+	+	+	+	+	E	+	I	E	+	B	U	+	+
Y	T	I	L	A	U	Q	L	F	Z	R	+	+	M	+
+	+	+	+	+	+	+	E	I	A	A	+	+	+	+
+	+	+	+	+	+	N	+	C	O	+	R	+	+	+
+	+	+	+	+	I	+	+	+	+	S	+	G	+	+
+	+	+	+	F	P	H	O	S	P	H	O	R	U	S
W	A	T	E	R	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+

(Over,Down,Direction)

- CARBON(9,12,NE)
- EUROPE(11,6,N)
- FILTRATION(9,10,N)
- FINEFESCUE(5,14,NE)
- GRAZING(13,13,NW)
- NITROGEN(15,1,S)
- PHOSPHORUS(6,14,E)
- POACEAE(8,1,SW)
- POTASSIUM(6,2,SE)
- QUALITY(7,10,W)
- SOILEROSION(11,13,NW)
- WATER(1,15,E)

Is Your Lawn Good for the Environment?

A second activity could be to discuss lawn care with students, using the 10 Plants website. Ask students to question their parents on lawn care, complete a survey on their lawn care practices and rate their parents or themselves, if they are teens mowing the lawn) on environmentally sound lawn care practices.

Compare responses in class and award the best management lawns a certificate, show how others could change their lawn care to help the environment.

Invite a guest speaker (Sam Bauer, U of M Extension Educator) to talk on lawn care, lawn care careers and best management practices.